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Jen-min Jih-pao.

DROUGHT, FLOODS, PESTS AFFECT 1951 AUTUMN CROPS IN CHINA

Due to natural calamities, such as drought, floods and insect pests, the original food-production quota for 1951 in China is not expected to be fulfilled. However, according to the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao of 24 September 1951, it is expected to surpass the 1950 level of production.

Considerable damages were caused by drought, floods, and insect pests. At the time of autumn sowing, drought gripped most areas in North, Northeast, and Southwest China. More than 10 million mou /one mou equals to 1/6 acre/ were affected in those regions. Damage to seedlings and celay in sowing were serious.

About 3 million mou of farm land were flooded in various sections of the country due to heavy rainfall and storms in mid-July.

Hail damaged crops in a 2-million-mou area of Hopeh, Suiyuan, Shantung, and the Northeast.

Locusts, aphids, red spiders, army worms, paddy rice moths, etc. have inflicted tremendous damages on the food and cotton crops.

The following is a summary of drought, flood, hail, and insect pest conditions affecting the 1951 autumn harvest in all sections of China.

DROUGHT

Various degrees of drought conditions prevailed in the provinces of Chahar, Suiyuan, Shensi, Hopeh, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Area, and in, the Northwest and Southwest Regional Districts of China prior to the autumn planting season. Autumn sowing and early autumn crops were affected. Rain in mid-July in some regions helped to alleviate the conditions.

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Chahar

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Considerable damage was caused by the drought. About 5 million mou of farm land were affected. From 50 to 60 percent of the seedlings in the drought area were killed. The reseeding program was successful. By 24 July, about 1,780,000 mou of young crops were totally or partially reseeded.

Sulyuan

Dry conditions prevailed in the province at the early part of the sowing. The damage was slight.

Shansi

More than one million mou of land were affected by the drought. Delay in sowing and reseeding was necessary. The damage in Hsing Hsien and Hsin Hsien was serious. Replanting in the stricken areas began after the rain of 20 July.

Hopeh

Some 1,700,000 mou of farm land in seven administrative districts north of the Shih-chia-chuang -- Te-hsien Railway were affected. Rains around the middle of July relievel the situation somewhat.

Inner Mongolia Autonomous Area

A survey at the end of June showed that due to the drought, 28 percent of the fields had not yet been sown and 27 percent of the seedlings were destroyed. Rains alleviated the dry condition. Farmers are working to complete late autumn sowing.

Northwest (Ningsia, Kansu, Shensi)

Drought conditions have prevailed in these provinces since July. The condition was serious in Ningsia. Yen-ch'ih, T'ung-hsin, and T'ao-lo hsiens in Ningsia lost 20 percent of the young plants.

Southwest (Yunnan, Szechwan, Sikang)

Severe drought prevailed in the Southwest during May and June. Rain in July helped to relieve the conditions.

FLOODS

Floods devastated many areas in Chekiang, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Honan, Ping-yuan, Szechwan, and Yunnan. Due to heavy rains in mid-July, more than 3 million mou of farm land were flooded in these areas. The government is organizing the peasants to fight the floods in various areas.

South Kiangsu

In the course of 10 days, the peasants were able to save most of the 1.2 million mou of flooded fields. Only 270,000 mou, mostly low land, were lost.

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South Anhwei

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In this section 600,000 mou were flooded. Peasants were mobilized to fight the flood. For instance, in the eight haiens, including Wu-hu, Manling, Tang-tu, etc., over 70,000 peasants with 17,700 wooden chain tread pumps were mobilized to pump the water from the fields continuously day and night. In Man-ling, the peasants were able to discharge flood water from 25,000 mou of fields in 5 days. The mechanical pumping station in the I't'aidike low-land area in Wu-hu Haien discharged at a rate of 84,000 gallons of water per minute. By 27 July, over 30,000 mou of the flooded fields in the low lands were empty of flood water.

Honan, Chekiang, North Kiangsu, North Anhwei

Most of the 1,100,000 mou of flooded fields in this region have been recovered for planting. The rest is being reconditioned for seeding.

Pingyuan

Due to the dike break in An-yang and P'u-yang special administrative districts, over 600,000 mou of farm land were flooded. The farmers in some areas replanted the fields.

Southwest

Due to torrential rains in July, about 60,000 mou of farm land were flooded. The people's governments in those localities are assisting in reclaiming the fields.

HAIL

Hopeh

The Han-t'ai and Han-tan areas suffered considerable damage from hail which affected 500,000 mou. Reseeding of 250,000 mou of crops was necessary.

Suiyuan, Shantung, Pingyuan

About 300,000 mou of farm crops were damaged by hail in these provinces in July.

Northeast

Over 1,100,000 mou of planted fields were damaged by hail in four provinces in the Northeast. Reseeding or supplementary seeding were necessary in many cases to fulfill the production plan.

INSECT PESTS

The peasants in Hopeh, Shantung, North Anhwei, Kiangsu, Sinkiang, and other provinces have been fighting summer locusts which infested over 7 million mou of farms. At present, they are combatting the autumn locusts. Cotton aphids, red spiders, army worms, and noctuidae moths infested many fields during the autumn.

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North China

About 70 percent of the cotton fields were affected by cotton aphids. Army worms and Yeb-tao worms /larvae of noctudidae moths/ are being discovered in areas where vegetable or miscellaneous crops are raised.

Hopeh

Autumn locusts have infested over 340,000 mou around Tientsin and along the coast. About a million mou of farm land were affected by red spiders. The damage by cotton aphids was serious.

Pingyuan

Cotton aphid damage was serious. Red spiders are under control.

Mortheast

During the season, 60 percent of the cotton fields in the Northeast were infested with cotton aphids. Army worms and Yeh-tao worms are prevalent, but under control.

Shantung

Some locusts are being discovered in the province. Cotton aphids have caused considerable damage. Army worms in Te-Hsien have inflicted serious lesses on vegetable and miscellaneous crops. Red spiders are under control.

Central and South China

More than 8 million peasants in Chekiang, Fukien, and Hunan were mobilized to combat the paddy rice moth. At present this pest is under control, but there are moths now in the egg stage. Cotton aphids in the Central and South China Regional District are under control.

Northwest and Southwest

Some cotton aphids were discovered but they are either being exterminated or are under control.

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